

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Dee Brown, on April 20, 2015 at 3:25 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dee Brown, Chair (R)  
Sen. Roger Webb, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Robyn Driscoll (D) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Sue Malek (D)  
Sen. Lea Whitford (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Nadine Spencer, Committee Secretary  
Rachel Weiss, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SR 53, 4/15/2015, HJ 23, 4/20/2015

Executive Action: HJ 23 - Be Concurred In  
SR 53 - Tabled

**HEARING ON HJ 23**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:00:50 Rep. Debra Lamm (R), HD 60, opened the hearing on HJ 23, Interim study of Montana's election process.

Sen. Driscoll entered the hearing.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:02:16 Linda Stoll, Montana Association of Clerks and Recorders and Election Administrators (MACR)

00:02:46 Jonathan Motl, Commissioner of Political Practices

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:03:39 Chair Brown

00:04:08 Ms. Stoll, MACR

00:05:02 Chair Brown

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:05:23 Rep. Lamm

**HEARING ON SR 53**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:06:47 Sen. Jon Sesso (D), SD 37, opened the hearing on SR 53, Resolution to confirm Jonathan Motl as commissioner of political practices.

**EXHIBIT**(sts80a01)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:19:26 Chris Manos, executive director, State Bar of Montana

00:21:16 Mike Dalton, president, First Interstate Bank, Helena, representing himself

00:23:01 Amy Sings In The Timber, executive director, Montana Justice Foundation

**EXHIBIT**(sts80a02)

00:25:43 Shirley Palmer, Helena, representing herself

00:26:45 Kristin Page-Nei, American Cancer Society; American Cancer Action Network

**EXHIBIT**(sts80a03)

00:29:41 Bruce Desonia, Missoula, representing himself

00:30:27 Mary Baker, program supervisor, Commissioner of Political Practices

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts80a04)

00:33:21 Vanessa Sanddal, investigator, Commissioner of Political Practices

00:34:57 Rick Sherwood, partner, Morrison, Sherwood, Wilson, Deola, PLLP, Helena,  
representing himself

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts80a05)

00:38:04 Mark Mackin, attorney, Helena, representing himself

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts80a06)

00:40:02 Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, HD 84

00:40:43 Rick Pyfer, attorney, Helena, representing himself

00:44:48 Jonathan Motl, Commissioner of Political Practices, appointee

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:46:50 Ron Murray, Gallatin County, representing himself

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts80a07)

**Committee Questions and Discussion**

00:48:31 Sen. Hinkle

00:48:45 Mr. Murray, self

00:49:23 Sen. Hinkle

00:49:36 Mr. Murray

00:51:06 Sen. Driscoll

00:51:14 Mr. Murray

00:51:22 Sen. Webb

00:51:26 Mr. Murray

**Opponents' Testimony continued:**

00:51:47 Rep. Art Wittich, HD 68

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts80a08)

00:54:11 Sen. Malek

00:54:48 Sen. Hinkle

00:54:59 Sen. Wittich

00:55:12 Sen. Malek

00:55:24 Rep. Wittich

00:55:46 Rep. Wittich continued his testimony

00:59:00 Ed Argenbright, representing himself, Helena

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts80a09)

01:04:04 Gregg Trude, representing himself

[EXHIBIT](#)(sts80a10)

01:07:27 Terry Bannan, Belgrade, representing himself

01:12:29 Trevis Butcher, Winifred, representing himself  
[EXHIBIT](#)(sts80a11)

01:20:02 Chris Shipp, executive director, Montana Republican Party  
[EXHIBIT](#)(sts80a12)

01:23:32 Chris Gallus, attorney, Helena, representing himself  
01:33:06 Rep. Scott Staffanson, HD 35, representing himself

**Informational Testimony:**

01:34:28 Mike Fellows, chairman, Montana Libertarian Party  
01:35:35 Julie Steab, former investigator, Commissioner of Political Practices

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:37:52 Sen. Sesso  
01:41:25 Recess  
01:56:52 Reconvene

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 23**

01:57:05 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Webb moved that **HJ 23 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Webb will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 53**

01:58:01 **Motion:** Sen. Webb moved that **SR 53 BE ADOPTED.**

**Discussion:**

01:58:21 Sen. Hinkle  
02:05:33 Sen. Malek  
02:11:19 Sen. Kary  
02:12:37 Sen. Driscoll  
02:13:32 Sen. Whitford  
  
02:16:06 **Vote:** Motion carried 4-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Driscoll, Sen. Malek and Sen. Whitford voting no.  
  
02:16:48 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Webb moved that **SR 53 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 4-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Driscoll, Sen. Malek and Sen. Whitford voting no.  
  
02:17:14 Chair Brown

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:43 P.M.

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Nadine Spencer, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([sts80aad.pdf](#))**